



Craig Donnelly's

ANALY\$IS\$
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Craig has been involved in horseracing for 50 years as a handicapper, journalist, linemaker and analyst. He began his career in 1969 handicapping the races for the Miami Beach Sun. Beginning in 1971 he began picking winners for the Philadelphia Inquirer, where he remained for 37 years. Craig has also been a linemaker for the Atlantic City Racecourse and The Meadowlands, where he was the program oddsmaker and television co-host for seven seasons.

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MONDAY, JULY 22, 2024 – FIRST POST 12:40 P.M.

Best Bets: CURLINS CRUZIN (6th) -- HORNBEAM (9th)

Race 1

- 9** ZOPPI FISCHBEIN – Exits better version this spot; re-claimed earlier by Mosco and should rally
- 8** SURFBOARD – Yet to justify heavy backing here and Laurel but Ness runner threat on best.
- 1** FREE BIRD BORDO – Absent two months and stretching out again; likely prefers this yardage.
- 3** I'M NOT A BABY – Gave up early in latest but prior outing makes threat for hot Gallimore barn.

Race 2

- 3** CHANCE OCCURRENCE – Dueled this far around two turns on turf; quick but makes 13th try.
- 1** MISSUPTOWNTODOELOU – Responded well at loftier level after claim; back down claim ladder.
- 6** ROYAL UPSTART – Switches from turf route to dirt sprint; hit board there prior main track tries.
- 7** MELODY'S KISS – Far behind on turf after hiatus but can't dismiss yet at this level.

Race 3

- 3** SALAGADOOLA – Cruised past quicker field when Lake re-claimed; plunges and retains Lopez.
- 9** BEYOND A MILLION – Full of run too late this spot when easily second best; needs pace set-up.
- 8** CAPTIVATING STAR – Advanced sprinting again and should be prepared for two turns.
- 5** SCOTT ALAIA – Absent well over two months since poor showing but formidable on best.

Race 4

- 2** CHARLIZE CHUB – Capable in past and takes realistic drop after overmatched twice in Jersey.
- 8** KHOZY COLBY – Shipper changed management again; part of exacta in half of 14 outings.
- 5** BAY BAY BIRDIE – Drops after poor showing in sloppy route; prior try stamps threat.
- 3** CORONA CAMPIONE – Hard-earned score when claimed; remains eligible as three-year-old.

Race 5

- 7** ANGELIC STORM – Not much last pair but formidable at times and softer route fractions plus.
- 4** FAR HEART – Likely ability advantage but sidelined over year and might need this.
- 6** GRYPHON'S WINGS – Forced pace for three quarters before fading following claim for more.
- 8** AUNT BERRA – Rare attempt around two turns in second try for Smith barn; upset possibility.

Race 6

- 6** CURLINS CRUZIN – Dominated lesser from start in impressive score and should handle raise.
- 1** JACKSON ROAD – Chased runaway winner at Delaware; sharp return outing locally this spot.
- 5** TRUMPET CALL – Nosed by heavy favorite in best yet and used up early in prior route try.
- 8** TOP OF THE STREET – Good enough to win earlier at Keeneland and back in sprint; gains late.

Race 7

2	EMILY'S ON FIRE – Led throughout defeating heavily-backed newcomer; seems well-spotted.
4	UNION BELLE – Improved effort against repeat winner; pair of strong races for Kreiser barn.
3	KOKOPELLI GIRL – Used up dueling rival capturing second straight decisive score; fits nicely.
7	DIANE'S MERLOT – Series of losses against decisive winners but proven she fits this spot.

Race 8

11	HIPPY HIPPY SHAKE – Sire won 2019 Breeders' Cup Sprint; Preciado barn won pair recently.
6	MAXIMUS ANGELICUS – Regally-bred filly competed well but failed at odds-on in bow; threat.
1	NOT TOO LATE – Sire McKinzie won Pennsylvania Derby and over \$3 million; flying here in a.m.
5	CENTRAL TO SUCCESS – Worked best of 28 from gate at half mile; sire excels in New York.

Race 9

10	HORNBEAM – Easily second best behind impressive winner; conqueror jumped up and repeated
2	VISUAL ARTIST – Exits sharp effort when easily second best at Delaware; on rare losing streak.
9	SECRET ALLIANCE – Dueled and weakened in tough version this spot; good form with Haddock
6	HEY PORTER – Overmatched on road trip after pair of solid tries here; Castillo barn been firing.

Race 10

4	REAL TALK – Strong recent try in Jersey despite poor start; ends losing skid as lone speed.
6	MEET ME AT MUNDIS – Hard-hitter claimed last month by Ness for \$40,000; late kick likely.
1	GEEBERT – Eight-year-old with 13 victories and retains finishing kick; extra yardage a plus.
2	B B BAD – Stretch-runner kept talented opposition lately; often better than odds predict.

Race 11

3	GREAT NAVIGATOR – Failed as huge favorite in Jersey route; likely better suited this yardage.
7	THE JUDGE AND JURY – Road warrior fits well this spot and local success in past; lures Lopez.
2	SPEEDY BOLT – Surprised similar with perfect trip behind dueling pacesetters; needs set-up.
1	EAGLES CRY – Major step forward when edged as longshot with rally behind contested pace.

Race 12

8	MIDNIGHT ACT – Seen better days but plunges to bottom and sheds 10 pounds; \$356,997 bank.
12	GABE – Weakened late as 6-5 chalk in sprint but probable pacesetter with slower fractions.
11	FLAT LUCKY – Classy veteran humbled by runaway winner at Delaware; racing into shape.
10	MUCHO MACHO EDDIE – Dueled long way before yielding to smashing winner; obvious threat.